

Schwaben Verein question leads to RAM perfin mystery

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In the article by Vince McDermott in the July/August 2001 *Bulletin*, he shows a cover from the Schwaben Verein of Chicago. McDermott couldn't identify the pattern

Addressing Machine Company of Chicago, and additional usage by Koelling & Klappenbach of Chicago. The catalog also suggests that the latter usage may be from "a mailing



on the stamp. I have in my collection a similar cover which shows the complete pattern.

The U.S. catalog lists pattern R13 (RA/M) as being used by the Rapid

pattern R13. The same stencil type device has addressed two of them and from this I conclude that the Rapid Addressing Machine Co. applied the stamp and mailed the covers. The other cover was addressed several years later by a different type of stencil than used on the first two covers.

All this leads to the question: Is the return address on the Schwaben Verein cover that of the Rapid Addressing Machine Co?

Editor's Note:

Paul's question sent me to my collection of word perfins and two covers I have with the RAM perfin. One, postmarked Chicago, July 8, 1910, has a corner card of the Rapid Addressing Machine

Company with an address of 173 Adams Street, Chicago. That doesn't match the Clark Street address on the Schwaben Verein corner card.

The other cover in my collection carries the corner card of J. Capps & Sons Woolen Mills of Jacksonville, IL. It's postmarked Chicago, November 28, 1910.

Gault checked his atlas and says Jacksonville is a small town near Springfield. It's quite a distance from Jacksonville to Chicago, especially by 1910 standards.

So how did the RAM perfin wind up on all these covers? Any ideas—or other covers with RAM perfins?